

Public service in return for government grants of monopoly use of the publically owned airwaves to make millions of dollars should be unquestioned. The airwaves are the property of the people of the United States; they cannot be anything else. No commercial company or corporation should be allowed to treat the public airwaves as private property. Companies are, in effect, borrowing the use of the public airwaves from the citizens of the United States in order to make money. They do not even pay the public treasury a fee for this use of public property as far as I know. They must use what they borrow from the public in responsible ways. If they do not they should lose the privilege of using those airwaves. Cable companies are engaged in interstate commerce. They should adhere to the same high standards that we have a right to expect from broadcasters. Appropriate, truthful, unbiased, and adequate public service and responsible use of the airwaves and cable communication are what the public deserves. Any deviation from those standards should be cause for withdrawal of the privilege to make money by broadcasting over the public airwaves or over any cable network. Has this question been addressed? Will there be clear and adequate requirements for responsible public service in the future?

I think more complete public discussion is necessary before any changes are made in media rules. The public needs to know all the facts and all of the proposed changes, and have meaningful opportunities to respond, before any decisions are made. Let us keep and enforce the present rules until there has been a proper public discussion, with full public availability of and access to the information on this issue. If you consider rule changes necessary, publish the proposed changes with supporting reasons, including the full information used by you to reach your conclusions, then let the public and our elected representatives consider, discuss, and render opinions before any decision is made to put the changes into effect.